



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: SOUTHERN DISTRICT
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

EASTERN DISTRICT
U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
ROBERT NARDOZA
(718) 254-6323

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS AVAILABLE
TO RECEIVE ELECTION COMPLAINTS**

DAVID N. KELLEY and ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF, the United States Attorneys for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, respectively, announced today that special telephone numbers have been set up to receive complaints of possible violations of federal election laws relating to the upcoming November 2, 2004 general elections in New York City and other counties in their districts. These efforts are part of the Department of Justice's nationwide Election Day Program.

Two years ago, in October of 2002, the Attorney General established a Department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of this Initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur - to make voting easier and cheating harder. It is

imperative that in pursuing voter integrity, ballot access is not in any way diminished or harmed. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers the goals of the Initiative. The Program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. Through the Program, the Department seeks to ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it, while those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice.

Federal laws also require local election authorities to make voting accessible to disabled and elderly voters. Voters who require assistance because of blindness, disability or inability to read and write have the right to receive such assistance from a person of their own choosing. In counties with substantial numbers of non-English speaking voters, federal laws prohibit the denial or abridgement of a voter's ability to participate in the election process in certain languages other than English (i.e., Spanish, Chinese, Korean).

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud or voting rights abuses on November 2, 2004, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, U.S. Attorneys KELLEY and MAUSKOPF stated that their Offices will be on

duty to receive complaints at the following numbers on November 2, 2004 while the polls are open:

(718) 254-7000	(for Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Nassau and Suffolk counties)
(212) 637-2987	(for Manhattan, Bronx, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan and Westchester counties)

In addition, complaints of possible violations of federal election laws may be made directly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation at (212) 384-1000.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767.

A spokesperson for the United States Attorneys stated: "Election fraud and voting rights abuses dilute the worth of votes honestly cast. They also corrupt the essence of our representative form of government. As crimes against both the individual and the government, they must be dealt with promptly and aggressively. The ability of federal law enforcement authorities to detect and eliminate improper restrictions on voting rights and to prosecute election fraud depends to a large extent on the watchfulness and cooperation of the voters. It is therefore imperative that those who have been asked to participate in illegal election practices, who have been the subject of such practices, who have observed such practices, or who have information bearing on such practices, make

that information known promptly to the FBI or the United States Attorneys at the telephone numbers listed above."

The United States Attorneys also noted that the following additional telephone numbers are available on election day for citizens to call for routine inquiries, such as where to vote or how late the polls are open, or to register complaints that may concern violations of New York State election laws:

IN NEW YORK CITY

City Board of Elections

Main Office	(212) 487-5300
	(212) 868-3692
Bronx	(718) 299-9017
Brooklyn	(718) 797-8800
Manhattan	(212) 886-3800
Queens	(718) 730-6730
Staten Island	(718) 876-0079

IN COUNTIES OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY

County Boards of Elections

Dutchess	(845) 486-2473
Nassau	(516) 571-2411
Orange	(845) 291-2444
Putnam	(845) 278-6970
Rockland	(845) 638-5172
Suffolk	(631) 852-4500
Sullivan	(845) 794-5024
Westchester	(914) 285-5700

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